

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/236,057

Examiner

Steven P. Sax

Applicant(s)

HUGH ET AL.

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Examiner's Amendment 10/25/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 7-56.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/25/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

STEVEN SAX
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Reasons for Allowance

1. This application has been examined. The amendment filed 2/3/06 has been entered.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. This was made to incorporate into all the independent claims the displaying of the graphical relationships between the plurality of thoughts, and that the indicia of the thoughts on the display are rearranged upon selection of a new central thought in a manner that graphically reflects the relationship between the thoughts and the new central thought. This also corrects for antecedent basis in the dependent claims accordingly, as well as correct for a typographical error in claim 11. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for organizing and processing electronic information comprising the steps of:

- organizing the electronic information as a plurality of thoughts;
- defining a matrix of the plurality of thoughts in a network and further including a plurality of network relationships among the thoughts, wherein each thought may be related to at least one of the other thoughts, and at least one of the thoughts is directly

Art Unit: 2174

related to one of the other thoughts;

selecting a first thought from the plurality of thoughts to be a central thought;

displaying on a display direct relationships between at least some of the plurality of thoughts, including an indicium of the central thought and at least one of the related thoughts;

selecting a second thought that is related to the central thought to be a new central thought; and

displaying an indicium of the new central thought and at least one related thought,

wherein each of the indicia comprise a graphical icon that may be activated by a user, and wherein indicia of the thoughts on the display are rearranged upon selection of a new central thought in a manner that graphically reflects the relationship between the thoughts and the new central thought.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the new ~~current~~ central thought is associated with information, the method further comprising the step of viewing, editing or processing the electronic information.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The method of claim 2, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the step ~~of viewing, editing or processing~~ is subsequent of loading the contents of said new central thought.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim.9, wherein the period of time is long enough to permit navigating to another thought before the contents of the central thought are loaded.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of creating a file that contains a ~~the~~ full location of a device on which the network is initially defined, that file configured so that ~~the~~ thought documents organized by the network are accessible from a remote device having access to the information organized by the network.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

identifying at least one thought document that does not reside in the memory or storage of a local device;

loading selected ones of the identified thought documents to a local device;

changing the recorded location of the loaded thought documents to reflect the new local location of the thought documents.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one thought contains more than one version of a single thought document and wherein a user may select from among these multiple versions of the thought document.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 in which a Train of Thought is highlighted or otherwise made visible or differentiated from the other graphical elements ~~comprising the graphical representation of the~~ a matrix.

Claim 43 (Currently amended): The method of claim 42, further comprising the steps of:

based upon the current thought and the defined matrix relationships, identifying all thoughts that could possibly be selected as a new central thought from a current plex, and all thoughts that would join the new central thought in a ~~the~~ resulting new plex upon the selection of any one of the thoughts;

identifying the thoughts for which the desired information is presently stored at the local device; and

sending from the remote device only that data associated with each thought that could join the new plex upon the selection of a new central thought that is not already stored at the local device.

Claim 53 (Currently amended): A method for organizing and processing electronic information comprising the steps of:

organizing a plurality of thoughts;

defining a matrix comprising the plurality of thoughts and further comprising a plurality of network relationships among the thoughts, wherein at least one of the thoughts is related to one of the other thoughts;

displaying a graphical representation of the matrix, the graphical representation comprising a plurality of display icons corresponding to the thoughts, and further comprising a plurality of connecting lines corresponding to the relationships among the thoughts;

receiving a communication from an application program;

identifying at least one command within the communication, the command a request to make a particular thought the a current thought; and

loading, viewing, editing or processing information associated with the current thought, wherein icons of the thoughts on the display are rearranged upon selection of the current thought in a manner that graphically reflects the relationship between the thoughts and the current thought.

Claim 54 (Currently amended): An apparatus for organizing and processing information using a computer, said information comprising a plurality of thoughts and said apparatus comprising:

input means for defining a matrix comprising the plurality of thoughts and further comprising a plurality of network relationships among the thoughts, wherein each thought may be related to at least one other of said thoughts, and wherein at least one of said thoughts is directly related to one of the other thoughts;

display means for displaying graphical representation of direct relationships between at least some of the plurality of thought, including an indicium of a first thought as a central thought and for displaying an indicium of a second thought, said second thought having a direct relation to said first thought; and

means for enabling selection of said second thought to be a new central thought, whereby indicia of those thoughts having defined relations with said second thought will be displayed on said display in a manner that graphically reflects the relationship between those thoughts and the new central thought.

Claim 55 (Currently amended): A computer program product for organizing and processing information using a computer, said information comprising a plurality of thoughts and said product comprising:

a computer-usable medium having computer-readable code embodied therein, said computer-readable code comprising:

a matrix definition module which is configured so that a matrix comprising the plurality of thoughts and further comprising a plurality of network relationships among the thoughts can be defined, wherein each thought may be related to at least one other of said thoughts, and wherein at least one of said thoughts is directly related to one of the other thoughts;

a first display module which is configured to display graphical representation of direct relationships between at least some of the plurality of thoughts on a display, including an indicium of a first thought as a central thought and on the display;

~~a second display module which is configured to display~~ an indicium of a second thought ~~on said display~~, said second thought having a direct relation to said first thought; and

a selection module which is configured to enable selection of said second thought to be a new central thought, whereby indicia of those thoughts having defined relations with said second thought will be displayed on said display in a manner that graphically reflects the relationship between those thoughts and the new central thought.

Claim 56 (Currently amended): A system for organizing and processing information using a computer, said information comprising a plurality of thoughts, and said system comprising:

input means for defining a matrix comprising the plurality of thoughts and further comprising a plurality of network relationships among the thoughts, wherein each

Art Unit: 2174

thought may be related to at least one other of said thoughts, and wherein at least one of said thoughts is directly related to one of the other thoughts;

a display for displaying graphical representation of direct relationships between at least some of the plurality of thoughts, including an indicium of a first thought as a central thought on the display; and

~~a display for displaying~~ an indicium of a second thought on said display, said second thought having a direct relation to said first thought, wherein a user can select said second thought to be a new central thought, whereby indicia of those thoughts having defined relations with said second thought will be displayed on said display in a manner that graphically reflects the relationship between those thoughts and the new central thought.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Wen Liu on 10/25/06.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner's amendment, as well as the previous amendment 2/3/06, together, place the application into condition for allowance by incorporating into all the independent claims the features including the displaying of the graphical relationships between the plurality of thoughts, and that the indicia of the thoughts on the display are rearranged upon selection of a new central thought in a manner that graphically reflects the relationship between the thoughts and the new central thought. The features combined in the

Art Unit: 2174

independent claims (1- method, 53 – method which identifies the command, 54 – apparatus, 55 – computer program product medium, 56- system) are not set forth in the prior art of record. Also, the Terminal Disclaimer renders the previous double patenting concern moot. Furthermore, there is not a 101 concern with claim 55, in that the product is explicitly recited as a medium upon which is embodied the code and further which is for processing and organizing information using a computer.

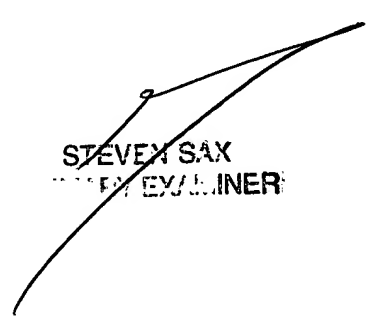
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven P. Sax whose telephone number is (571) 272-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2174

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



STEVEN SAX
ATTORNEY/EXAMINER